



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - - providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture

717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.nass.usda.gov

# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending April 9, 2006

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 10, 2006, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at  
[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_and\\_Condition/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp)*

**Fair Week for Field Work:** The temperature fluctuated the past week, starting off rather cool, warming up to the seventies before the weekend rain came to cool things down again. Weather conditions changed just as frequently as the temperature, from clear and sunny to cloudy with precipitation. This limited the number of days farmers could work in the field. With inconsistent weather, this could definitely affect the bloom of several fruits at this time. Spring plowing is moving along ahead of schedule as several farmers have chosen to use no-till acres. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, hauling and spreading manure, planting corn, sorghum, oats and potatoes.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 9, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6	36	57	1

**Crops:** Spring plowing is now 47 percent complete, well ahead of last year at this time as well as the 5-year average. Planting for the corn crop as well as for sorghum is still in the beginning stage. Although none of the winter wheat crop has begun heading, the crop condition for wheat is doing very well as 60 percent is reported as good or excellent. Oats are now 29 percent planted, ahead of the previous year's pace and the 5-year average.

Both peaches and cherries are currently in the pink stage. Sixty-two percent of the peach crop is now pink and cherries are now at 45 percent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions are doing much better thanks to the previous week's precipitation, but there is still room for improvement. This week's pasture conditions are the following:

11 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 50 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of April 2, 2006:** Warm air expanded across most of the Nation, bringing back above-normal temperatures, with the exception of some Atlantic Coast States and the northern and central intermountain region. Showers and thunderstorms erupted after midweek across the eastern Plains and Midwest. On March 30-31, more than two dozen tornadoes were reported across the east-central Plains and the Midwest, boosting the monthly total to 226. That total, if verified, will exceed the cumulative March tornado count during the preceding 3 years (147 March tornadoes from 2003-05). It was also the deadliest March, in terms of tornado-related fatalities, since 1998. Aside from local destruction caused by severe thunderstorms, rain aided pastures and winter wheat across the northern and eastern Plains and the southern and eastern Corn Belt. At week's end, warmth overspread areas from the Plains eastward in advance of another Pacific storm and severe weather outbreak. Fieldwork was limited to only a couple of days during the week across most of the region.

**Winter Wheat:** Thirty-eight percent of the crop was rated as in good to excellent condition, compared with 68 percent a year ago and 52 percent for November 27, 2005, the last available estimate for the current crop.

**Sorghum:** Fifteen percent of the crop had been planted, compared with 10 percent last year and 11 percent for the 5-year average.

**Small Grains:** Spring planting was 2 percent complete, 2 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. Barley planting, at 3 percent complete, was 5 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Twenty-seven percent of the Nation's oat crop had been planted, compared with 30 percent last year and 28 percent for the 5-year average. Except Texas, where most of the crop is planted in the fall, planting was most advanced in Pennsylvania, at 24 percent, 19 points ahead of normal.

# Weather Data For Week Ending April 9, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 9, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	71	29	43	0	1.12	6	1.35	0.40	7	14	14	59
Franklin	69	28	43	0	1.23	5	1.35	0.34	6	9	9	57
Meadville	66	26	41	-1	0.63	3	0.63	-0.36	3	11	11	48
Mercer	66	28	43	0	1.05	6	1.17	0.10	7	12	12	60
Springboro	69	27	41	-2	1.07	4	1.36	0.48	6	11	11	50
Warren	68	23	41	-1	1.36	6	1.81	0.80	8	9	9	50
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	63	19	39	0	1.17	6	1.47	0.48	8	13	13	43
Emporium	66	22	42	2	1.52	7	1.68	0.69	9	8	8	57
Kane	65	19	39	1	1.36	4	1.58	0.50	5	3	3	40
Laporte	56	23	38	-7	0.53	4	0.57	-0.35	6	8	7	34
Lock Haven	66	25	45	0	1.04	3	1.13	0.23	5	16	15	68
Port Allegany	64	20	40	-2	1.21	3	1.43	0.53	5	12	12	50
Renovo	67	25	44	0	1.07	4	1.30	0.40	6	17	16	68
Ridgway	64	20	41	1	1.14	5	1.31	0.32	6	5	5	48
Stevenson Dam	66	25	43	4	0.95	4	1.24	0.25	6	13	13	64
Towanda	66	20	42	-2	0.36	3	0.47	-0.34	4	11	10	56
Wellsboro	59	21	39	0	0.79	4	1.01	0.38	6	8	8	42
Williamsport	65	26	44	-2	0.48	3	0.49	-0.43	4	24	16	74
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	61	21	39	-3	0.45	2	0.60	-0.36	4	7	7	35
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	62	22	42	-3	1.10	3	1.12	0.31	5	24	23	70
Susquehanna	59	23	39	-1	0.69	4	0.85	-0.20	6	8	8	42
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	75	25	45	0	0.52	5	0.62	-0.33	6	17	15	72
New Castle	76	28	45	3	0.92	5	0.99	0.09	6	20	20	75
Slippery Rock	73	26	45	4	1.32	5	1.33	0.37	6	23	23	77
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	71	26	46	0	0.49	4	0.52	-0.44	5	30	22	86
DuBois	67	22	42	0	1.32	6	1.56	0.57	8	17	17	65
Lewistown	67	27	46	-1	1.11	6	1.17	0.36	8	26	17	85
Middletown	69	30	48	0	1.20	4	1.29	0.39	5	40	27	107
Prince Gallitzi	72	23	43	1	1.26	6	1.48	0.22	8	14	14	63
Selinsgrove	65	27	45	-1	0.85	4	0.92	0.02	6	19	12	76
State College	70	26	45	2	0.69	4	0.84	-0.04	6	24	23	81
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	66	27	45	-2	1.23	5	1.26	0.27	6	26	18	84
Lehighton	62	28	43	-4	0.85	6	1.05	0.15	8	10	5	57
Matamoras	64	26	40	-6	1.14	5	1.23	0.11	7	10	8	42
Tobyhanna	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	27	47	2	0.88	5	1.00	0.10	7	30	21	91
Derry	73	24	44	1	1.05	5	1.31	0.38	6	26	26	78
Myersdale	69	22	43	-2	1.11	6	1.21	0.04	7	14	14	64
Mount Pleasant	75	23	45	3	1.28	5	1.41	0.23	6	19	19	75
Pittsburgh Intl	77	28	47	0	0.90	5	1.02	0.03	6	26	17	85
Rector	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Waynesburg	77	25	47	2	1.13	5	1.15	0.12	6	25	19	85
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	71	29	48	0	1.10	5	1.16	0.17	6	32	19	96
Everett	73	26	46	1	1.32	6	1.37	0.41	7	20	16	78
Hanover	72	29	49	1	1.58	6	1.60	0.61	8	36	23	103
Shippensburg	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
South Mountain	70	25	46	0	1.38	6	1.50	0.54	7	30	24	85
York	71	26	49	0	1.35	5	1.43	0.36	6	39	26	104
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	67	31	47	1	1.34	5	1.37	0.33	7	27	21	86
Hamburg	68	31	46	2	1.23	7	1.32	0.25	8	28	28	86
Hopewell	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	69	29	48	2	1.33	4	1.37	0.38	5	39	30	103
Neshaminy Falls	66	32	46	-2	1.11	5	1.13	-0.04	6	17	8	79
New Holland	67	27	47	0	1.45	5	1.50	0.51	6	30	21	90
Philadelphia	67	34	51	2	1.20	4	1.21	0.13	5	47	32	125
Philadelphia NE	68	34	50	1	1.02	5	1.04	-0.04	6	46	31	120
Reading	67	28	47	1	1.26	5	1.30	0.22	6	35	30	96
Valley Forge Na	72	30	47	-3	1.16	4	1.22	0.14	5	29	15	91
Willow Grove	66	32	48	2	0.83	5	0.83	-0.34	5	37	28	103

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

---

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney** - Adams County received 1/2 to 3/4" of rainfall during a severe thunderstorm on Monday evening April 3rd. Some areas around Arendtsville received hail for a short period of time. Could possibly effect cherry, peaches, plums because they are about to bloom. Fieldwork continues to prepare for spring planting. Producers are awaiting warmer temperatures and soil conditions before any spring planting of corn and soybeans. Oats continues to be sown. Colder daytime and nighttime temps this week still holding crops before spring blooms, which are not far away. Producers are anxiously waiting to get going full tilt in the fields.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael P. Fournier** - Much needed rain over the weekend should kick start the grass hay fields. Field work moving along at a good pace.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - Some of the activities this week included plowing and planting oats, spreading lime and fertilizer, and preparing for the spring plantings.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - 3/8 inch rainfall for the week. Rain needs to give crops a proper start.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty** - 0.9 inches of rain on Saturday. Good weather forecast for the coming week.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle** - The early part of the week brought in about 3 inches of snow to the area along with cold temperatures. Field conditions became wet putting a halt to any field work. The weekend weather was sunny but still cold making it ideal auction weather.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig** - Well needed and timely rains arrived this week. One half inch early in the week was followed by 1.25 inches Friday/Saturday. Cold soil temperatures are holding off the big push for starting of corn planting. Pastures are slow in developing, maybe it is the anticipation that makes the perceived delay. With adequate moisture and some heat this week should be the start of pasture development. Alfalfa appears to have overwintered in fairly good condition. Not as much reports of heaving as recent winters. Lots of manure hauling and field preparation taking place. With all of the talk about no till farming advantages for time and fuel savings, I would have expected to see less worked ground this year. So far this has not been the case.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Jim Collom** - The rain received last week helped to green pastures nicely. However, soil moisture levels are still inadequate in most areas of the county.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr** - The rain finally came. Rain really pushed the small grain and pastures are looking better. New seedings of alfalfa will benefit from the rain as well. Farmers were busy spraying cover crops, spreading lime, preparing fields for planting. Weather conditions this spring weren't all bad. So far it has been good for construction of conservation practices ie., terraces, and waterways.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield** - Cool week with some rain finally, about one inch of rain fell last week mostly on Saturday. Mites in timothy are a big problem again this year. It is time to treat. Pastures and hay fields have begun growing better since the rain. Many farmers that till have completed most primary tillage and were waiting to do secondary tillage until they are ready to plant. Looks like a warmer week ahead, some maybe tempted to plant corn this week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The soil and crops benefited from the recent rainfall of nearly one inch, along with 1 - 2 inches of snowfall. The wheat and barley are making progress, while the alfalfa and timothy are slow at starting. The winter annual weeds are showing up in some fields. The spring activities are moving along at a normal pace.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Some plowing done mostly for new seedings and/or oats. Looks like this week will allow days for seedings to be done. Been cold last week looks better for this week. Lime and fertilizer being applied where needed.

**UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler** - Soil conditions are dry, but some rain and snowfall should help some. Very little spring plowing taking place since a larger percentage of farmers appear to be increasing no-till acres. Major field work included sowing oats and seeding alfalfa with some manure being spread.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Week has been unsettled with several days of showers that gave us some much needed rain. Still dry enough that field work is progressing well. Grass growth remains slow because of the colder than normal conditions.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 9, 2006**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	47	12	18
Oats, planted	29	14	12
Peaches, in pink	62	0	N/A
Cherries, in pink	45	0	N/A

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 9, 2006**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	36	54	7
Pasture	11	15	50	22	2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**United States**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Field Office  
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19  
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA  
 PERMIT NO. G-38